

ORIGIN/ACTION

Approved For Release 2000/09/11 : CIA-RDP78-05597A00010010012-2

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AIRGRAM

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A-436

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TO : DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Document No. _____
 Review of this document by CIA has
 determined that

HANDLING INDICATOR

- ☒ CIA has no objection to declass
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☐ It contains nothing of CIA interest
 Date 25 Nov 1980 Reviewer 05948-5

FROM : AmEmbassy TEHRAN

DATE: January 10, 1963

SUBJECT: Embassy's Evaluation of NIS Program

REF : CA-6275, December 7, 1962

The Embassy has, as requested in the referenced airgram, queried elements of the mission which have occasion to use the NIS regarding the Program's usefulness to their operations. In general, the consensus has been that those chapters of the NIS which are current satisfy the mission's need for a systematic and readily accessible compilation of basic intelligence. Answers to the specific questions asked by the Department follow.

a) The Embassy has found the NIS useful primarily as an orientation to Iran for newly arrived officers and as the most convenient reference available when background material is needed for the evaluation of political and social developments. It is of little value in the conduct of day-to-day operations. The Embassy can think of no situations in which it might have special uses for the NIS.

b) With the exception of ARMA, the Embassy does not believe that the NIS would be of much use should a critical situation develop, even one involving neighboring countries. This conclusion is based primarily on the fact that a disproportionate number of NIS sections are old and out-of-date. ARMA, however, thinks that despite this drawback, sufficient information is provided of a permanent nature (such as that pertaining to terrain, railroads, roads, dams and ports) to render the NIS useful for his purposes in an emergency.

c) Both the summaries and the detailed information contained in NIS sections are adequate. In general, the Embassy believes that no attempt should be made to pare down detail for the sake of brevity.

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by:

POL:JPlorenz:cah 1/10/63

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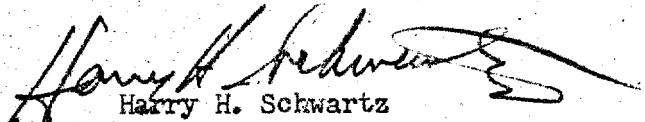
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d) The political and sociological chapters of the NIS are, in that order, of greatest use to the Embassy. The "Structure of the Government" and "Political Dynamics" sections on Iran have been of particular value in placing political developments in their proper context. The Economic section has found that the economic sections of the NIS are of marginal value because of the short time which it takes for statistics to become out-dated.

e) For the reasons stated in (a) and (b), the Country Briefs are of relatively less value to the Embassy than Chapters II to IX. The Briefs might perhaps be better used exclusively as an index to the location of data to be found in the various chapters.

f) The interdepartmental NIS would seem to be the only workable system. Individual departmental production would probably prove to be too narrow in scope and application, whereas if the NIS is to be of any value, it must be on the broadest possible scale.

FOR THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES AD INTERIM:


Harry H. Schwartz
Counselor of Embassy
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